

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 5-7, and 23-24.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) — a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 2 or 13, or the complement of said nucleotide sequence; and~~

~~(b) — a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 2 or 13, wherein said allelic variant binds to an antibody that selectively binds to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs: 2 or 13, and is not the polypeptide within the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.~~

2. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3 or 12.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

5. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of ~~according to any one of claim-claims 1, 2, and 4.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The vector of claim 6~~5~~, which is an expression vector.

7. (Currently Amended) A host cell transfected or transformed with the expression vector of claim 6.

8. (Original) A method of producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 7 in an appropriate culture medium to thereby produce the polypeptide.

9. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a ~~pharmaceutically effective amount of the~~ nucleic acid molecule ~~of that comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1, or 3, and 12~~ –and a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable~~suitable carrier.

24. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising (1) ~~a pharmaceutically effective amount of an antisense oligonucleotide~~ nucleic acid molecule that comprises a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to (a) a sequence encoding a polypeptide, which polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or 13, or (b) a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, and 12; and capable of specifically hybridizing to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 1 or 12 and (2) a pharmaceutically acceptablesuitable carrier.

25. (Cancelled)